

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 OTP-01 CCO-00

EB-07 FCC-01 OC-05 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 FAA-00

DOT-00 SS-15 SP-02 /079 W

----- 106791

R 030954Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4803

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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DEPT. ALSO PASS FAA, NASA, NSC AND OTP

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, ETEL, TECH, XT, CA, US, FR

SUBJ: THE PROBLEM OF AEROSAT

1. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  
THAT WOULD APPEAR TO PLACE IN QUESTION OUR ABILITY  
TO MOVE AHEAD WITH OR EVEN TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATING  
IN THE AEROSAT PROGRAM. AS A RESULT OF SERIOUS FAA  
FUNDING PROBLEMS OF WHICH THE OTHER AEROSAT PARTICIPANTS  
HAVE NOW BEEN OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED, REQUEST FOR BID  
PROPOSALS ON SPACE SEGMENT HARDWARE HAS HAD TO BE  
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DELAYED AND US COMMITMENT TO THE WHOLE PROGRAM IS

SEEN AS IN JEOPARDY.

2. DISCUSSIONS ON AEROSAT DATE FROM 1968. FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONDUCTED FOR ABOUT FOUR YEARS DURING WHICH TIME THE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN ACHIEVING AGREEMENT WERE CHANGES IN U.S. POLICY AND A SHIFT IN AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FROM NASA TO FAA. AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS FINALLY SIGNED IN THE SUMMER OF 1974, HOWEVER, BY THE EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (ESRO) ON BEHALF OF ITS TEN MEMBER COUNTRIES (INFO ADDRESSEES THIS MESSAGE), CANADA, AND THE FAA ON BEHALF OF THE USG. UNDER ITS TERMS A SPACE SEGMENT ORGANIZATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN DEC. 1974 BY AGREEMENT AMONG ESRO, CANADA AND COMSAT GENERAL. WHILE I AM NOT CONVERSANT WITH ALL THE DETAILS AND WITH THE FULL RANGE OF PROBLEMS THAT MAY HAVE DEVELOPED AT THE WASHINGTON END, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CRUX OF THE DIFFICULTY STEMS FROM FAA/COMSAT DIFFERENCES OVER COSTS FOR LEASING THE SPACE SEGMENT.

3. PRESUMABLY THE US STILL SEES NEED FOR THE AEROSAT PROGRAM OR IT WOULD NOT HAVE PERSEVERED FOR SO LONG TO BRING IT INTO BEING. AEROSAT COULD BE A MAJOR VEHICLE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEANS, WITH OBVIOUS POLITICAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC RAMIFICATIONS FOR US. US FIRMS WOULD BE MAJOR SUPPLIERS OF HARDWARE FOR THE PROJECT, WITH CONSEQUENT GAIN FOR OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARGUING FOR OUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM IS THE BALD FACT THAT OUR CREDIBILITY AS A RELIABLE PARTNER IN COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, SPACE AND OTHERWISE, WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY UNDERMINED IF THROUGH OUR ACTIONS THE AEROSAT PROGRAM WERE NOW TO COLLAPSE.

4. I THEREFORE URGE THAT THIS QUESTION BE GIVEN HIGH-LEVEL INTER-AGENCY REVIEW AS A MATTER OF SOME PRIORITY TO PERMIT RESOLUTION OF OUR INTERNAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROBLEMS AND REAFFIRMATION OF OUR FULL COMMITMENT TO THE AGREED AEROSAT PROGRAM.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, FUND ALLOTMENT, AEROSAT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 APR 2003  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE PROBLEM OF AEROSAT  
**TAGS:** TSPA, ETEL, TECH, XT, CA, US, FR, FAA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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